

# **Recycling and Refuse Management Committee**

Minutes 3/13/08

Present: Meg Vickery, Clare Bertrand, Pat Church, Marianne Lorenzelli, Guilford Mooring, Susan Waite

Moved and Approved Minutes from Feb. 14, 2008

Visiting Mary Kohler of Middle Street, raised concerns about haulers going down her street two days, (Mon and Tues) and thinks one day might be better. Her concerns centered around fuel waste and unnecessary emissions. She feels pattern for pick up could be adjusted to resolve the situation. We explained routing was not within our jurisdiction given that two private haulers operate in Amherst and that coordinating with neighbors to elect a single hauler for the street could be a solution. Members responded with other ideas, including a suggestion to visit Hitchcock Center to get involved in the local air quality movement.

## Recycling Coordinator Report:

- School Lunch Committee: RFP's have gone out and two were submitted. RFP included new environmentally friendly protocol request.
- Membership update: Marianne's friend couldn't make it. Adrie Lester has submitted CAF. Sue Cairn has a conflict for now on Thursdays.
- Sterling Bush has generated a new "volunteer at the Transfer Station" info sheet and signup.
- Susan Waite attended the MA. Compost Summit and saw Bob Martin there and commended him on his efforts to encourage food composting in the Pioneer Valley.

## Earth Day Preparation Update:

DATE CHANGE: now set for April 26, Saturday, thus avoiding having it at the same time as 'ExtravaGanja' on the common. More importantly this will now coincide with Arbor Day and concurrent events are planned. Sponsors to include Whole Foods, Ink Solutions and requests are in to Big Y, Atkins and others to join. Susan asked RRMC to make a commitment as sponsors for this event, joining the DPW, Chamber of Commerce and the Public Shade Tree Committee. Meetings are being held Mondays at 1pm at the Town Hall to prepare for earth day.

## Projects/Goals for 2008

The following were discussed and approved:

- Establish an annual Award for recycling or waste reduction. Pat Church recommended this and criteria and details would need to be established.
- Mass Recycles Paper Campaign. Susan Waite encouraged the committee to join in the State-wide effort to promote this campaign. There is much work already done, she just doesn't have the time.
- Amherst Landfill Re-use process; the RRMC will prepare a formal request to be involved in decision-making since the future of the Transfer Station is in question based on determined uses. Therefore to see a continued vibrant recycling transfer station in our community, participation in this process is vital.

Discussed but put on hold:

- Styrofoam Ban; some remember this as being an act of Town Meeting. More research needs to be done and a determination to be reviewed.

- Letter in support of a Bill going before the State Legislature to enact a 2 cent tax on plastic bags. Some members had questions and wanted to see the bill and find out what were the intended uses for the money.
- Publicize accomplishments of RRMC. It was discussed, but some felt that this could be accomplished through other work done by committee.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35pm

Respectfully submitted by Clare Bertrand

(Temporarily for Lucy McMurrer)